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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/032,324	12/20/2001	Michael Hobson	MP1716-US2	4550

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, TRUC T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 07/26/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

AK

• **Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/032,324

Applicant(s)

HOBSON ET AL.

Examiner

Truc T. T. Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 December 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 December 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5. 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the claimed limitation "mechanism comprises a ratchet" must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

By dictionary, "a ratchet mechanism consists of a bar or wheel having inclined teeth into which a pawl drops so that motion can be imparted to the wheel or bar". The claimed limitation does not show this feature.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

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(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-5, 7, and 10-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ziegler, Jr. et al (US 3,678,447).

Regarding claims 1-5, 11-13, Ziegler et al disclose a sealable connector (1) comprising:

a first connector portion or a cup shaped body (62) having a bottom surface (un-numbered, where the seal 100 is pressed against this surface);

a second connector portion or a cap (1) having an aperture (12) to receive a contact terminal (36) form a female connection;

a compliant material (100);

a fastening mechanism (10, 96).

Regarding claim 7, Ziegler et al disclose the fastening mechanism comprises a latch, the latch comprising a tooth (10) and a groove (96), wherein the tooth is adapted to engage the groove.

Regarding claim 10, Ziegler et al disclose the compliant material forms an environmental seal between the first and second connector portions, when the respective connector portions are engage.

5. Claims 1, 7-9, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hayes et al (US 4,810,208).

Regarding claims 1 and 14, Hayes et al disclose a sealable connector comprising:

a first connector portion or a cup shape body (2) having a bottom surface;

a second connector portion or a cap (100) having a plurality of apertures;

a compliant material (80); and

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a fastening mechanism (110, 34).

Regarding claim 7, Hayes et al disclose the mechanism comprises a latch, the latch comprising a tooth (34) on the on one of the first or second connector portions, the fastening mechanism further comprising a groove (108) on the other of the first or second connector portions, wherein the tooth is adapted to engage the groove.

Regarding claim 8, Hayes et al disclose the fastening mechanism comprises a spring bias member (106).

Regarding claim 9, Hayes et al disclose the first and second portions, when engaged, form a connection device adapted to mate with a complementary connector.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ziegler, Jr. et al (US 3,678,447) in view of Craft, Jr. (US 6,238,236 B1).

Ziegler, Jr. et al substantially disclose the claimed invention except that the fastening mechanism comprise a ratchet.

Craft, Jr. teaches a fastening mechanism (154, 116) is a ratchet mechanism.

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It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute a ratchet mechanism for the screw on mechanism in Ziegler et al's connector, as taught by Craft, Jr. for quickly detach/attach the connector portions.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Truc T. T. Nguyen whose telephone number is 703-306-4004. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula Bradley can be reached on 703-308-2319. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7722 for regular communications and 703-308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

T. Nguyen
June 30, 2002

P. Bradley
P. AUSTIN BRADLEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800